

**REMARKS**

The Official Action dated December 3, 2008 has been carefully reviewed. Surprising, the Examiner has raised a new requirement for restriction. Specifically, the Examiner contends that claim 12 as amended is drawn to patentably distinct species of invention. These include,

- a) an autoimmune disease;
- b) an inflammatory disease;
- c) prevention of allograft rejection; and
- d) alleviation of allograft rejection.

If a species of Group a) or Group b) is elected, then Applicants must elect one of the subspecies of diseases recited in claim 17 selected from the group consisting of arthritis, gastritis, pernicious anaemia, thyroiditis, insulinitis, diabetes, sialoadenitis, adrenalitis, orchitis/oophoritis, glomerulonephritis, experimental autoimmune encephalitis, multiple sclerosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, atherosclerosis and inflammatory bowel disease

In response to this requirement, Applicants elect the species of Group a) an autoimmune disease and the subspecies of arthritis. All of the claims currently being examined read on the elected species.

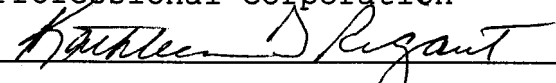
Early and favorable action on this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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